



145 Dennison Road
Essex, CT 06426
860/581-8554 FAX: 860/581-8543
www.rivercog.org

Chester, Clinton, Cromwell,
Deep River, Durham, East Haddam,
East Hampton, Essex, Haddam,
Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield,
Middletown, Old Lyme,
Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY **COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

December 4, 2013

Members:

Chester: Edmund Meehan *
Clinton: Willie Fritz
Cromwell: Jonathan Sistare
Deep River: Richard Smith * (9:15)
Durham: Laura Francis
East Haddam: Mark Walter *
East Hampton: Michael Maniscalco *
Essex: Norm Needleman *
Haddam: Melissa Schlag *
Killingworth: Cathy Iino *
Lyme: Ralph Eno *
Middlefield: Jon Brayshaw *
Middletown: Daniel Drew
Old Lyme: Bonnie Reemsnyder *
Old Saybrook: Carl Fortuna * (9:30)
Portland: Susan Bransfield
Westbrook: Noel Bishop *

Others Present:

The Honorable Nancy Wyman, Lt. Governor
Joe Comerford, Estuary Transit District Administrator
Thad King, Director of Health, Chatham Health District
Catherine Rees, Manager, Community Benefits, Chatham Health District
Wendy Mis, Director of Community Health, Chatham Health District
Jim Monopoli, Chatham Health District
Sherry Carlson, Chatham Health District
Geoffrey Colegrove, Durham and Middlefield Town Planner
Liz Glidden, Haddam Town Planner
Meg Parulis, Westbrook Town Planner
Phil Miller, 36th District Representative
Andrew Chiaravallo, Middletown Area Transit Administrator
Bob Bell, Essex Steam Train and River Boat

* Members Present

Staff Present:

Linda Krause
Jean Davies
Judy Snyder
Rob Haramut
Torrance Downes
Janice Ehle-Meyer
Dan Bourret
Margot Burns

River COG Agenda:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cathy Iino called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. at the offices of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments in Essex. This is the annual meeting of the River COG. The members and guests introduced themselves.

2. THE HONORABLE NANCY WYMAN, LT. GOVERNOR - REMARKS

Chairman Cathy Iino introduced The Honorable Nancy Wyman, Lt. Governor to the members. The Lt. Governor thanked the members for their invitation to speak and congratulated them for being the first in the state to merge two regional planning agencies together creating the River COG. She said that the State is projecting a surplus for this year and 2014 and taxes will not be raised. The State has created new jobs, invested in small businesses and is working with colleges to keep students in the state and employed after graduation. Veterans also need jobs when they return home. The State will also be constructing an additional travel lane for Routes 95 and 91 to increase both interstates to three lanes through the state.

The Lt. Governor asked if there were any questions or comments from the members. Ed Meehan stated that Chester School District 4 has received a letter from the state Board of Education stating that the minimum budget requirement calculations were non-compliant. Lt. Governor will look into this.

Noel Bishop stated that regionalized groups for purchasing power may reduce the cost for towns. Ms. Wyman discussed the possibility of regionalizing elementary schools, police departments, and town services to save money for the towns.

Norm Needleman stated the not every child graduating from high school will go on to college and that there is a need for apprenticeship programs so people can be taught the trades. He felt

that going to school part of the day and have hands on teaching of a trade for the other half would be productive for the businesses in the state and give these students jobs when they graduate.

Linda Krause discussed the problems receiving reimbursement from DECD for the Middletown Brownfield grant. The Lt. Governor will look into this.

Ralph Eno, a new CRRA board member, would like the state to mandate other options to recycle trash into energy. He stated that the state and country really needs to research and develop long term solutions.

Cathy Iino thanks the Lt. Governor for her coming to the meeting and meeting the COG members.

3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

Representative Phil Miller stated that three major issues were being discussed and worked on at the legislative sessions: 1. the gun legislation has been dismissed; 2. due to the extensive damage caused last year by Hurricane Sandy improvements have been implemented for protection if a storm such as this happens again; and, 3. chemicals of concern - especially pesticides ingested by children. The legislators are trying to protect young people from the effects of hazardous chemicals in the food and water supply. CCM is against expanding the ban on pesticides, while COST is helping the legislators.

4. PRESENTATION – TOWN PROJECTS – “KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS” – JEAN DAVIES

Jean Davies explained that each town has been interviewed and asked for their top three or four projects. Shown on the slide presentation are the towns and those projects. Ms. Davies stated that as part of the RPIP grant the region has subscribed to the CoStar Real Estate Database, a computerized database, to detect commercial and industrial land areas. This will enable staff to compile information on properties and possibly connect town projects and buildings in the region. Various selectmen elaborated on the projects being conducted in their towns. Ms. Davies said that the COG is also working on a freight study that would include the railroad corridor and the Connecticut shoreline. The Southeastern CT Council of Governments and South Central Council of Governments have expressed interest in preparing a tri-regional freight plan.

5. THAD KING, DIRECTOR, CHATHAM HEALTH DISTRICT, MIDDLESEX COALITION ON COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROJECT

Thad King, Director of Health, introduced the members of the Chatham Health District that are working on this grant. They are: Wendy Mis, Director of Community Health, Catherine Rees, Manager, Community Benefits, Jim Monopoli, Chatham Health District and Sherry Carlson. Mr. King briefly described the Middlesex County Coalition on Community Wellness Services. The coalition was formed through the community transformation grant and focuses on five rural counties in Connecticut. The community health assessments in each of the counties are based on centers for disease control. From the assessment the coalition determines the problem, develops an improvement plan, selects the strategies, and then implements the plan. Mr. King would like the COG to consider the coalition as a subcommittee. He felt that both organizations would be a good fit for each other politically and county wide. Mark Walter asked specifically what the coalition is asking for and if financial documents are available to review.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a. Appointments

1. Region 2 REPT

Cathy Lino stated that the COG needs to appoint a representative to the Region 2 REPT committee which is emergency management board. Bill Buckridge is qualified and willing to represent the COG. He is currently the Essex emergency person.

Upon motion of Ed Meehan, seconded by Noel Bishop, it was unanimously voted to appoint Bill Buckridge as the COG representative to the Region 2 REPT committee.

2. Workforce Development Board

This issue was tabled until the next meeting.

b. Clarification of personnel policies – vacation accrual

Upon motion of Ed Meehan, seconded by Michael Maniscalco, it was unanimously voted to approve the clarification change to the personnel policies vacation accrual section.

c. FY 13/14 Dues

This item was tabled to the January meeting.

d. Executive Director Search

Upon motion of Carl Fortuna, seconded by Bonnie Reemsnyder, it was unanimously voted to approve the schedule for the Executive Director's search as follows:

January

- Job descriptions will be developed and interviews conducted with staff
- Development and job description for executive director's position
- Advertise for financial officer's position with middle of March deadline

March COG meeting

- Present members with job descriptions

May

- Select and hire financial officer

July

- Advertise for executive director's position with August 1st deadline

August

- Develop a short list of candidates
- Conduct interviews

September

- Present choice to COG

October

- Offer position to 1st candidate

December

- New executive director starts

e. Other items

Cathy Iino expressed concern with the length of the COG meetings. She suggested having the business portion of the meeting at the beginning and a limit of one guest speaker per meeting. Some of the other items she would like presented and discussed are the Red Cross, youth services, on-line permitting, the nutmeg network and transportation within the region.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. 2014 HHW Collections – Additional Collection in Northern Tier

Janice Ehle-Meyer distributed a chart showing the household and vehicle counts for the collection in the northern towns between the years of 2009-2013 and asked if those towns would consider having two collections next year. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Ehle-Meyer stated that the Essex Household Hazardous Waste Facility had been cited by DEEP for accepting waste oil and anti-freeze at its collection. In the "Operation and Management Plan" these items are not addressed therefore the plan will need to be revised. Ms. Ehle-Meyer will survey the towns and present the members with a list of the towns that accept waste oil and anti-freeze at their transfer stations for the next meeting.

b. Work program

John Field, Region 2 Coordinator and Thomas Gavaghan Region 3 Coordinator for Homeland Security have asked to speak at an upcoming COG meeting. Region 2 includes the towns of Chester, Clinton, Durham, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. Region 3 includes Cromwell, East Haddam, East Hampton, Middletown, and Portland and Lyme and Old Lyme are in Region 4. The members asked that an outline of the proposed presentation be submitted to the Chairman and then reviewed at a COG meeting for scheduling.

c. Other items

There were no items at this time.

8. APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR RIVER COG OFFICER SLATE

Cathy Iino noted that all seated officers are willing to serve for a second term. The current officers are:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Cathy Iino -- | Chairman |
| Richard Smith - | Vice Chairman |
| Susan Bransfield - | Secretary |
| Ed Meehan - | Treasurer |

The election for these positions will be at the January meeting. Appointments must also be made to the Legislative Committee, Personnel Committee and Executive Committee.

9. APPROVAL OF 2014 MEETING DATES

Michael Maniscalco discussed having a shorter agenda with only one speaker. Linda Krause suggested that the members decide who they would like to make a presentation and set up a schedule for the year. Mr. Maniscalco felt that the Chatham Health District discussion should have been presented to the Executive Committee before coming to the COG. Bonnie Reemsnyder felt that the Chatham Health District presentation to the COG was important because they were soliciting monies from the COG. Carl Fortuna asked if Ms. Krause would

screen potential speakers and present a list under the Executive Director's report and then a schedule could be created.

Ms. Krause stated that the budget will be discussed at the January meeting and there will not be a guest speaker.

Upon motion of Dick Smith, seconded by Carl Fortuna, it was unanimously voted to approve to approve the 2014 meeting dates as presented.

10. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 23RD MINUTES

Upon motion of Carl Fortuna, seconded by Ed Meehan, it was voted to approve the October 23rd, 2013 River COG minutes as presented.

Melissa Schlag abstained from voting.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

There were no items at this time.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Dick Smith, seconded by Noel Bishop, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the River COG at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Snyder
Recording Secretary